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BOOK NOTICES.

The Principles of the American Law of Contracts at Law and in Equity. By John D. Lawson, St. Louis. The F. H. Thomas Law Book Co., 1893.

Professor Lawson is the first American author to classify the American law on the subject of contracts as Anson and Pollock have classified the English law, and right well has he done it. His development of the subject is most admirable. We cannot too highly commend the logical system in which the author has arranged his treatise, and the terse and clear enunciation of the principles governing each division in all its branches. We cannot too severely condemn the carelessness of the proof-reader and the indifferent typography. It is a shame that so admirable a work should be marred by mistakes evidently arising from the haste or negligence of the publisher. The book is full of typographical errors, both in the body of the text and in the notes, which the veriest tyro might have corrected. We sincerely trust that a second edition will show an improvement in this respect.

Negligence of Imposed Duties. Common Carriers. By Charles A. Ray, LL. D. (Ex-Justice of the Supreme Court of Indiana). The Lawyers' Co-Operative Publishing Co., Rochester, N. Y.

When such numbers of works upon legal subjects are being thrust upon the profession, it is not surprising that reviewers have manifested a disposition to indulge in some rather severe criticisms. This being the case it is a genuine pleasure to mention a work of which we can speak in terms of praise. Judge Ray's new book is such, and we have no hesitation in pronouncing it to be both valuable and timely. The law governing carriers of passengers is stated clearly and concisely. The cases cited are not only numerous but are well selected, and many of them very recent. The book is "up to date" in every respect, stating the law as it is, with occasional suggestions as to what it ought to be in the settlement of disputed or doubtful questions. In his preface the author states that "the effort is to add something to the library of the working lawyer which shall lessen his labor and promote his rightful success." We think the author has succeeded in his part of the effort. The book is well printed and well bound, and contains nearly 800 pages.